

DIAGNOSE UND FEHLDIAGNOSE VON GEHIRNERKRANKUNGEN AUS DER PAPILLA NERVI OPTICI. By PROFESSOR DR. FR. SALZER, of Munich. Pp. 16; 29 illustrations in 2 colored plates. Munich: J. F. Lehmann.

THE author observes very justly that the ophthalmoscopist, perhaps even to a greater degree than he is himself conscious, is wont to control the objective appearances in the fundus, particularly choked disk and atrophy, by the history and subjective examination, both of which frequently fall away in psychic disorders, which latter are so often brought under his notice. The very fact that all the details are recognizable with such exactness with the ophthalmoscope adds to the difficulties of the situation. Uncertainty in objective diagnosis is due principally to two important circumstances: (1) The extraordinary degree of variability in the ophthalmoscopic picture of the normal papilla and its immediate surroundings, and (2) that the modifications of the picture occasioned by important pathological processes are frequently so slight.

Of the two excellent colored plates, the first containing 20 pictures taken from life, exhibits the great variability of the normal papilla. Eight pictures of the second plate are examples of pathological or doubtful findings. The variations indicated in both concern the color, outline, and relief of the papilla and the bloodvessels. The author insists that a diagnosis of either pallor or heightened color should only be made upon the basis of two or more examinations made at different times. A detailed description of each picture is given in the text. As a final justification the writer cites the lack of concordance in the statistics as to the percentage of pathological findings given by different observers in the same diseases. (Some of these divergences depend, of course, upon differences in the material.)

T. B. S.

THE BACILLUS OF LONG LIFE. A MANUAL OF THE PREPARATION AND SOURING OF MILK FOR DIETARY PURPOSES, TOGETHER WITH AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE USE OF FERMENTED MILKS, FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY, AND THEIR WONDERFUL EFFECT IN THE PROLONGING OF HUMAN EXISTENCE. By LOUDON M. DOUGLAS, F.R.S.E. Pp. 163; 62 illustrations. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THIS volume is the twenty-ninth of the "Science Series" published by this firm. In each volume of this series a single author attempts to present his subject in a form at once accurate, scientific, and intelligible to the general reader. Certain volumes published in this series are well known and deserving of great praise, as, for example: *Fatigue*, by Mosso and others. The subject of the

present volume does not lend itself readily to this style of exposition, and the result has not been happy.

The first two chapters of the book are much the best, the first a short historical introductory account of the use of milk as a food, and the second, a description of the various fermented or soured milks used throughout the world. Both these chapters are filled with quotations, with references from works of travel and history which render them interesting.

The remaining chapters on the chemistry and handling of milk, the bacteriology of fermented milk, its preparation in the house and in the dairy, and finally, a consideration of the use of soured milk in health and disease, are of much less interest; especially is the section on the chemistry of the milk most unsatisfactory. It is unnecessary here to repeat the extravagant claims which have been made for soured milk, all of which the author faithfully includes.

On the whole, the book does not fulfil any purpose, and cannot be recommended.

O. H. P. P.

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MODERN MICROSCOPY. A HANDBOOK FOR BEGINNERS AND STUDENTS. By M. I. CROSS and MARTIN J. COLE, Lecturer in Histology at Cooke's School of Anatomy. Fourth edition. Pp. 325; 113 illustrations. Chicago: Chicago Medical Book Co., 1912.

THIS is a book primarily for the man with a general interest in what the microscope will show of the world about him. At the present time, it must be acknowledged that this class is not a large one, and the societies which devote themselves to purely microscopical science are likewise much reduced in number. In the modern specialization of all science, the microscope has been treated more and more as a tool, and interest in it as an instrument has become subordinate to the various scientific branches in which it is used. It is the laudable effort of the authors to keep alive something of the old spirit and to direct interest outside of the narrow sphere of every-day work.

Part I comprises five chapters devoted to the microscope and its accessories. Part II consists of fifteen chapters, giving methods of examination of animal and vegetable tissues, including mounting of microorganisms, crystals, diatoms, etc. Part III, new in this edition, comprises special chapters by various writers, on the petrological microscope, rotifera, freshwater mites, mosses and liverworts, microscopy of foods, and other subjects.

This book cannot fail to be interesting to the beginner who wishes to master the principles and exact manipulation of the microscope or to anyone with the inclination and leisure for a general study of Nature.

W. H. F. A.